



# Washington State Department of Agriculture News Release

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WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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## **State hearings set for chemigation and fertigation standards – second round**

OLYMPIA - Anyone who applies pesticides or fertilizers through an irrigation system will have a chance to comment on proposed changes to state Department of Agriculture "chemigation" and "fertigation" rules Sept. 25. The proposed changes are in response to comments received during the first round of hearings held in May. Additional environmental and technical issues are being considered to help protect surface and ground water and some proposed rule changes are clarified.

Three public hearings will be held simultaneously through use of the Washington Interactive Television (WIT) network. The public hearings will take place at 7 p.m. Sept. 25 at the following locations:

- Lacey: 710 Sleater Kinney Road S.E. Suite Q
- Spokane: 1101 N. Argonne, Suite 109
- Yakima: 15 W. Yakima Avenue, Suite 220

Directions to the WIT sites are available on the Internet at [www.wa.gov/dis/tsd/videoconf/locations.htm](http://www.wa.gov/dis/tsd/videoconf/locations.htm) or contact the Department of Agriculture at (360) 902-2012 or (509) 766-2574.

The changes added definitions, incorporated more descriptive wording, recognized commonly accepted trade names used for product identification, and allow for alternative technology concerning application tank placement. Additionally, a section was amended that addressed chemigation applications using surface run irrigation systems. This amendment states that when the injection point is at a non-pressurized section of an irrigation water distribution system, an interlock mechanism must discontinue product delivery in the event that water flow is interrupted.

“Decade-old chemigation and fertigation rules did not allow for attributes of system design or for technology advances,” says Tom Hoffmann, chemigation and fertigation technical assistance specialist. “The revised rules

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are responsive to environmental issues and are reflective of safety measures that are already being undertaken by those who practice chemigation and fertigation.”

For a copy of the proposed rules, call Laurie Mauerman at (360) 902-2012. Send written comments to:  
Washington State Department of Agriculture, Pesticide Management Division, P.O. Box 42589, Olympia, WA 98504-2589. Comments may also be sent by FAX to (360) 902-2093, or e-mail Laurie Mauerman at [hmauerman@agr.wa.gov](mailto:hmauerman@agr.wa.gov). Comments must be received by Sept. 25.

Information about the Chemigation and Fertigation Technical Assistance Program or the Technical Assistance Committee and the proposed rules are available on the department’s Web site at [www.wa.gov/agr/pmd/water](http://www.wa.gov/agr/pmd/water) or by calling Tom Hoffmann at (509) 766-2574 or Byron Fitch at (509) 766-2575.

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